

Hello! This is Dorothy -

The **1st Epistle to the Thessalonians** clearly speaks of Christ coming ***in the air*** for each born-again believer. That event is called the Rapture. I wonder if you are ready to meet Him if He were to come today. The interval between the Rapture for His born-again believers and His Second Coming in judgment to the earth seven years later, is called the Great Tribulation. This has further to be identified in such places of the Bible as in **Daniel chapter 9**. There we have that little phrase, ***the seventieth week***, which is speaking of those seven weeks.

The **2nd Epistle to the Thessalonians** answers questions following Paul's **1st letter**. As there had been sent a false report, there was a mixup. Trouble was brewing as people had received the wrong message! This claimed that Christ had already come and had already gathered out the Church to Himself, and the world was then living in the terrible judgment of the Day of the Lord! That was because of the persecution that the Christians were experiencing. The teaching of the end times, known by the big word, *eschatology*, is that the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ on earth will be preceded by signs - notably the appearance of what is called the Man of Sin or the Man of Lawlessness. Therefore, the young Church

in Thessalonica had problems when some of their loved ones died. Thinking the Rapture had already gone, they were very confused and wondered what would happen to them. They feared that the persecution they were living in meant that they had missed something as born-again believers.

Oh, how wonderful is the Word of God, because the Word of God keeps us straight. We have the Word of God even as we are hearing the Word today, because what is being said is being said from the Book, the Bible, which is God's message to man.

The **Book of the Acts of the Apostles** confirms the background of the persons and places in Thessalonica in which this whole event took place. That's the wonder of how God takes His Word; He links portion with portion, which all compliment each other. The Apostle Paul met Timothy at Lystra, as recorded in the **Book of Acts**. Their joint greetings are found in the Books of **2 Corinthians, Colossians, Philemon and 1 & 2 Thessalonians**. But we read of three men. because now we have Paul, Silas - which is Silvanus - and Timothy. They had previously preached in Philippi, but when in Philippi they had been compelled to leave, because they had been illegally taken (**Acts 16**) and imprisoned. As they left, they then traveled one hundred miles to Thessalonica. This is where this letter is based. This is where they went and people came to know the Lord. This, then, is the **2nd Letter** back to these people. As was

his usual custom, Paul had gone successively three weeks to the synagogue on the Sabbath. (It says that in **Acts 17:2.**) As a result, there had been many people who had turned to know the Lord Jesus, their Messiah. They had come to Him, seeing these were Scriptures fulfilled. Paul realized that his **1st Letter** had not achieved all that he desired. Some were idle, because they thought, “Well, why work if Jesus is coming?” whereas Jesus had said, **Occupy til I come. (Luke 19:13)** Therefore, without losing any more time, Paul wrote his **2nd Letter** pretty quickly after the **1st Letter to the Thessalonians**. He wanted to clear up their troubled minds and their many questions.

In **2 Thessalonians** we read that Paul was in company with Silas and Timotheus -*Timothy*- as they all sent their greetings. It actually starts the letter. **Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The man, Silas, is very interesting. *Silvanus* was his full name, but *Silas* was his nickname. Paul chose him as his companion after the great apostle had separated from Barnabas. This was Paul’s second missionary journey to the same place. Silvanus was trustworthy; he had a servant’s spirit. Paul makes an approving mention of his preaching in **2 Corinthians 1:19**, when he says - **For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was preached among you by us, even by me**

and Silvanus and Timotheus . . . Also Timothy (at this time called *Timotheus*) with Silvanus was associated with Paul in the writing of this letter.

What about if somebody was writing about you? Would they be able to say you are trustworthy? Would they be able to say you are trustworthy, humble, ready to confess Christ at any time and be a co-worker for Him? May Jesus bring through such glory to His Holy Name as you pray, *That's what I want!*

Amen.